

Beshear Substance Abuse Proposals

Beshear Proposal

Substance abuse problems have wide-ranging negative impacts on Kentucky families and communities. Gov. Beshear proposes several investments in this biennial budget to combat the problems associated with drug abuse and to better prepare a strong and reliable workforce.

Expand Substance Abuse Treatment through Medicaid

Kentucky currently offers limited treatment options for Medicaid recipients fighting substance abuse. Often, the substance abuse problems exacerbate or even cause other medical problems that are costly to treat. Gov. Beshear recommends investing \$7.8 million over the biennium to expand substance abuse treatment options for adults and teens enrolled in Medicaid.

- Over the biennium, 5,800 adults and teens will be able to participate in community-based substance abuse treatment programs (4,500 in FY 13, additional 1,300 in FY 14).
- Services to be provided by a network of certified providers include individual therapy, group therapy, peer support and intensive case management.

Invest in and Enhance Use of Prescription Tracking Program

Prescription drug abuse is a particular form of drug addiction that is causing widespread problems across the state. The Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting System (KASPER) is a national model for electronic tracking of prescription drugs. KASPER is designed to be a source of information for practitioners and pharmacists, as well as an investigative tool for law enforcement. KASPER reports show all scheduled prescriptions for an individual, along with the prescriber and the dispenser, for a specific time period. Enhanced KASPER (eKASPER) provides real-time web-based access to this data.

Gov. Beshear recommends investing \$4 million in eKASPER over the biennium in order to continue operation for health care providers, law enforcement officers and licensing boards. This will maintain the Commonwealth's ability to track controlled substance prescriptions and continue to provide a tool to combat prescription drug abuse and diversion.

The recommended funding would also allow the expansion of KASPER services to include the following:

- Increased data analysis of KASPER information in order to support licensing boards' investigations of provider prescribing and dispensing practices
- Increased KASPER system capacity to support mandatory establishment of KASPER accounts for all prescribers

- Increased KASPER system capacity to support mandatory usage of KASPER by prescribers
- Daily reporting of controlled substance dispensing records to KASPER
- Interstate sharing of KASPER data with other state Prescription Monitoring Programs

These enhancements to the eKASPER program will not only target “doctor shoppers” who are visiting multiple medical professionals in order to get large numbers of addictive pills, but will also root out prescribers who are enabling patients’ deadly addictions.

Continued Investment in Treatment Through HB463

HB 463, the landmark penal code and corrections legislation passed last year, will continue to decrease the state’s prison population, reduce incarceration costs, reduce crime and increase public safety. The savings from lower prison population will be re-invested into multiple programs, including expanded substance abuse treatment programs. Governor Beshear’s budget proposes to reinvest the savings generated from these changes in law into these critical treatment programs.

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